



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ADVISER ON POLITICAL RELATIONS
MR. DUNN
JAN 3 1938
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROME, January 10, 1938.

No. 745

Subject: Preservation and protection of Wild Life
in Ethiopia.

RECORDED MAIL
STAFF

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DIVISION OF
COMMUNICATIONS
AND RECORDS

RECORDING DEPT
FILE

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit, as of possible interest
to the Department, a copy in translation of a letter from
the Director General of Transoceanic Affairs in the Italian
Ministry of Foreign Affairs containing information relating
to the preservation and protection of wild life in Ethiopia.

In addition, I enclose a copy of a pamphlet containing
the current regulations in effect in Italian East Africa
designed to put into practice the system established by the
Italian Government for the protection of wild life.

Respectfully yours,

William Phillips

Enclosures:

1. Translation of letter.
2. Pamphlet.

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T R A N S L A T I O N

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Rome, January 4, 1938.

Dear Mr. Reed:

I am now in position to reply to your letter of December 8, 1937, regarding the protection of the Ethiopian antelope known as "Nyala", in which Dr. John C. Phillips, brother of His Excellency the Ambassador, in his capacity as President of the "American Committee for International Wild Life Protection" is interested.

The Royal Ministry of Italian Africa, which was interested in this matter, has informed me that from the beginning of military operations in Ethiopia the Italian Government has taken care to safeguard as far as possible the Ethiopian fauna in general, prohibiting all fencing and confinement activities in the occupied zones, and in March, 1937, provisions were made to regulate hunting in all the territory of the Empire, for whites as well as natives, until such time as it would be considered opportune to permit its normal development. Such provisions form the subject of the new "Ordinamento della caccia per l'A.O.I." (Rules for hunting in Italian Oriental Africa), in course of publication.

In said "Ordinamento" the fauna of interest to hunters has been divided in Classes, the first of which includes the species which are protected absolutely: in order to facilitate the recognition of such species, which is in greater part

unknown

Mr. Edward Lyndal REED,
Counselor of the Embassy
of the United States of America,
R O M E .

unknown to the majority of Italian citizens, the Ministry of Italian Africa has published a descriptive pamphlet illustrating such species, which was sent several months ago to the various Governments of Italian Oriental Africa for free distribution (some 2000 copies) to employees, hunters, etc.

Among the species protected absolutely, undoubtedly the most important from the scientific point of view and more threatened with complete extinction, are the "Stambecco del Semien (*Capra walie*)" and the "Nyala di monte (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*)", both found only in Ethiopia; and in April last it was decided, with a view to greater assurance of complete protection of this valuable species, to establish two national parks, one comprising the highest summits of the Semien, and the other the Mounts Cillalo in the Arussi, and instructions for their prompt establishment (awaiting the relative ministerial decree) were issued several months ago to the interested Governments of Amara and Harrar.

Other national parks are now in course of study and for one of these, comprising the coastal forests of Lower Giuba, executive measures have already been taken awaiting the regular decree which will approve its institution.

Besides these national parks, there are maintained, with some modifications of boundaries, the Reserves for many years existent in Eritrea and Somalia, which fully respond to the scope for which they were established, and other protective zones are to be established from time to

time as the need for them is recognized.

The institution of a special supervisory service for hunting in Italian Oriental Africa, which during 1937 underwent a preliminary period of study by the Ministry of Italian Africa, will begin to function under the General Government of Italian Oriental Africa during the present month of January, and will give ample guarantee that all matters in connection with the care of the Ethiopian fauna will be handled with particular attention in the territory of the Empire, - the positive duty of every civilized nation, the general principles having been defined by the London Convention of 1933, to which Italy was a signatory.

I enclose, for transmission to the brother of His Excellency the Ambassador, two copies of the above-mentioned pamphlet "Animali protetti in maniera assoluta nell'Africa Orientale Italiana," on page 6 of which is described and illustrated the "Nyala di Monte (*Tragelaphus Buxtoni*)," in which Dr. Phillips is particularly interested.

Believe me, dear Mr. Reed, with best wishes,

Yours,

EMANUELE GRAZZI.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

May 28.

Geneva.

Memo on: Raw Materials in Ethiopia.

It is believed that the Division will want to read all of this interesting despatch, particularly its enclosure.

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VIA
Geneva
and
London

Central File: Decimal File 865D.623, Internal Affairs Of States, Animal Husbandry., Italian East Africa, Wild Animals. Game Laws., January 10, 1938. 10 Jan. 1938. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, <link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109727767%2FGDS%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC>. Accessed 18 June 2025.